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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 2, 2002**

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# **SAN CARLOS RESIDENT SENTENCED TO 14 YEARS FOR SECOND DEGREE MURDER**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA** -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on August 2, 2002, Alvin Nanty, D.O.B. September 19, 1978, of San Carlos, Arizona, was sentenced to 14 years in prison for Second Degree Murder, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1111, by United States District Judge Mary H. Murguia, in Phoenix, Arizona.

Nanty had entered a plea of guilty to the charge on April 18, 2002. In the course of his guilty plea, Nanty admitted the following facts. On October 25, 2001, Nanty, spent part of the day drinking beer with co-defendant Ernesto Francisco and others. On that date, the group was playing horse shoes at a house in Gilson Wash on the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation. At this time, Willard Modless drove up. Modless confronted one of the others present because he believed the person had previously burned down a friend's residence in August 2000. Modless began to chase the person he was confronting. Nanty and Francisco began to chase Modless to prevent him from hurting their friend. Modless ran back to his car. A woman drove Modless away.

Nanty, Francisco and others began to look for Modless on foot. They flagged down a car driven by another friend and asked if he would be willing to drive them around to find someone. The group then

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drove by where Modless lived, but he was not home. Nanty then saw Modless standing beside his car further down the street. Modless was picking up roofing materials children had thrown in the street. As they drove by Modless, Nanty shouted at Modless. Modless got in his car and drove after them. Nanty then told the driver of his car to turn around. As the cars approached one another, Nanty's car pulled into a driveway, turned off the driveway and got stuck. Modless pulled up near them and got out of his car. Nanty and Francisco got out of their car and pulled out knives. Nanty began to stab Modless in the face. Nanty and Francisco stabbed Modless in the head, right arm and chest.

Nanty later admitted that he planned on stabbing Modless, but did not want to kill him. Nanty admitted that he stabbed Modless because Modless had "messed" with his "bro". Modless did not have any weapons on him and he did not threaten bodily harm to either Nanty or Francisco. Modless suffered thirteen stab wounds. The wounds were to the right arm, chest, ear, scalp, face and lip. One of the wounds punctured the victim's heart and another punctured his liver. The cause of death was multiple stab wounds inflicted during the stabbing by Nanty and Francisco.

Nanty was in custody prior to his sentencing and was remanded to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons by Judge Murguia. Francisco is in custody on the same charge and is set for sentencing before Judge Murguia on September 16, 2002, at 11:00 a.m.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs Law Enforcement Services, Federal Bureau of Investigation, San Carlos Apache Tribal Police Department and Arizona Department of Public Safety.

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